



Student Testimony • February 15, 2023

Appropriation Committee

## Roberta B. Willis Scholarship

My name is Amina Khokhar. Growing up, I lived in East Hartford and now currently live in Seymour, CT. I am in the Albertus Magnus College M.B.A. program and will graduate in May. I have my B.A. in Arts Management and minored in entrepreneurship – also from Albertus Magnus College.

In my immediate family, my twin sister and I were among the first in my family to not only get an undergraduate degree but to pursue a Masters. While my family was happy, we were also presented with financial difficulties because we were going to school at the same time. I didn't expect my family to pay my way – because they couldn't. I had to find a way to pay for my education on my own. I was able to do so with the help of the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship. Simply put, it was essential to make my dream come true.

When I came to Albertus, I knew I wanted to be involved in the school community because this was now part of my family. It's why I picked Albertus. However, with my student loans, I knew I had to also get another source of income. That's how the Roberta B. Willis scholarship made the difference. I now had a chance to become not only a student, but a student leader. Whenever I saw the scholarship on my Financial Aid letter, my anxiety dropped and I felt relief.

This scholarship helped me financially and personally. I have become a better person because of my involvement and the education I received. I have confidence. I am now fearless. I know in my heart that my goals are achievable because of the critical thinking skills I obtained at Albertus. I'm workforce ready thanks to my internships – one of the most memorable being at the Connecticut Office of the Arts Creative. I now work for two local non-profits in the New Haven area: the Arts Council of Greater New Haven and the New Haven Free Public Library – both in the Development Department. I have a fondness for New Haven and will stay and work to uplift the community through the arts and literacy initiatives.

I have fond memories to look back on and feel that I have a bright future ahead. Thank you Albertus Magnus College and thank you Roberta B. Willis Scholarship.



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